

Catholic Theatre Conference

PRODUCTION CALENDAR

Vol. 9

DECEMBER 1949

No. 3

IN THIS ISSUE:-

- Reports on Festivals
- Other Regional Events
- Membership Directory
- 1949-50 Bulletin
- 'Scaffold' Scripts
- "Guilty of Treason"
- Executive Board Meeting
- Cross-Country Circuit
- Broadway Comments

OUR SEASON'S GREETINGS

May we extend to every Honorary Life Member, our Life Member, each Sustaining Member and all the regular Members and Subscribers our greetings of the Season. May the little Christ-Child make your Christmas a holy and happy one and your New Year a blessed, peaceful one.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST PLAY FESTIVAL

The Pacific Northwest Region, just a little over one year old, held its first annual Play Festival in Portland, Oregon November 26 with Immaculata Academy as hostess. Arrangements were under the supervision of Rev. Anthony Juliano of Central Catholic High School, chairman of the Region. Sister Mary Edmund, O.P., Principal of Immaculata Academy, served as Honorary Chairman.

Mr. James Cameron, director of the Portland Civic Theatre, was the Critic Judge assisted by Sister M. Stilla, O.S.F., Marycliff High School, Spokane, Wash., and Mr. Dick Fair of the Portland Players, University of Portland.

The day began with Holy Mass in Immaculate Heart Parish Church with Father Juliano as celebrant. Registration of delegates followed. Welcome greetings were extended by Miss Angeline Schwerdt,

(Cont'd. on Page 8)

IMPORTANT

Before you dispose of the envelope in which this Calendar comes to you please check it. Is the address correct? Is the Calendar being directed to the proper person?

We request that you inform the Service Bureau of any change. The Membership Directory is being compiled for printing the first of the year. We want it to be as complete and correct as possible.

We will also be preparing the master tape for our new Master Addresser! We were able to purchase one for \$30.00. Your secretary is looking upon it as a Christmas Gift, the best help the Conference and she could receive. No more addressing 550 envelopes - no more checking the work of volunteer helpers. Once the master tape is done correctly it will be just a matter of running off the envelopes - several months supply at a time so the Calendars can be mailed promptly as soon as they come from the mimeographer.

The tape will be set up regionally so that on a moment's notice our Regional Chairmen and Unit Chairmen can receive complete lists of their members without waiting for them to be typed. These lists have been in demand lately by chairmen planning festivals and benefit performances.

Beginning with the New Year we will be mailing under a Mailing Permit so we won't even have to take time to put on stamps! We are planning early for the fulfillment of our New Year resolution and wish, i.e., to have the Calendar reach you on the first of each month.

CENTRAL REGION
MILWAUKEE PLAY FESTIVAL

Saint Mary's Academy, Milwaukee, Wisconsin played hostess for the Annual Play Festival on Nov. 25, 26 and 27. Sister Mary Veronice, O.S.F. was in charge of arrangements. Miss Mary Virginia Rodigan, B.A., director of department of Speech, Milwaukee State Teachers' College, was the Critic-Judge.

The three-days events began Friday afternoon with an address of welcome by Sister M. Florence, O.S.F. and Contest Remarks by Sister Veronice. Four plays were presented that afternoon, three Sat. morning and three Sat. afternoon. A dance was held Sat. evening at St. John Cathedral High School. Sunday morning began with Holy Mass followed by a Communion Breakfast with Miss Betty Rozga as chairman. Announcement of ratings was made by Rev. E. J. O'Donnell, S.J. Mr. Leon J. Schlenk of Marquette High School presented the best directed play with his "Thread O' Scarlet". Rae Moore of Holy Angels Academy, Milwaukee was judged the Best Actress for her portrayal of "Jeanne Libert" in "Chimney Corner". Cornelius Shield of Marquette High was rated the Best Actor for his role of "Smith" in "Thread O' Scarlet".

Telegrams of greetings from Executive Board members and Regional Chairmen were read by Sister Veronice. Patrons for the Festival included among others His Excellency, Most Rev. Moses Elias Kiley and His Excellency, Most Rev. Roman R. Atkielski.

Sister Veronice was assisted by Sister M. Judine, O.S.F., Mr. L. J. Schlenk, Nathalie Wesoloski, Mary Pat Wilson and Sister M. Rose, O.P.

Plays presented were as follows:
St. Mary's Academy - "Overtones" directed by Sister M. Veronice; Pius XI High School - "Lily", Sister M. Judine; St. Benedict the Moor - "Three Taps on a Wall", Sister M. Anaciete, O.P.; Divine Savior High - "The Stones Cry Out", Sister M. Estelle, S.D.S.; Notre Dame High - "What Never Dies", Sister M. Roman, S.S.N.D.; Marquette Univ. High - "Thread O' Scarlet", L.J. Schlenk; St. Catherine's High (Racine) - "Let's Make Up", Sister M. Pascal, O.P.; Saint John Cathedral High - "The Trysting

(Cont'd. on Page 9)

NORTH-CENTRAL REGION
YANKTON, S.D. & MINNEAPOLIS FESTIVALS

November 4 marked the first Play Festival to be held in South Dakota under Conference sponsorship. Sister M. Jeanette, O.S.B., Unit Chairman for that area, and director at Mount Marty High School, was responsible for its planning and execution.

His Excellency, Most Rev. Brady, sent the following message: "The Bishop is happy to send a word of approval and commendation for the plan to promote a Catholic-sponsored drama festival. We must use every means possible to teach the arts and to fortify our young people so that they will be able to take their places in society with every advantage. The Bishop hopes that the festival will be the beginning of a new development in our secondary schools."

Sister M. Charitas, chairman of the North-Central Region, was Critic Judge. The day's program began with an Opening Prayer offered by Rev. Henry Huber, O.S.B. and a Welcome by Mother M. Jerome, O.S.B., President of Mount Marty Junior College. Two plays were presented in the morning followed by lunch. Five were given
(Cont'd. on page 9)

MINNEAPOLIS

Regional chairman, Sister Charitas, supervised and carried out plans for the Second Annual Play Festival for Catholic High Schools in the Twin Cities. It was held Nov. 26 at Academy of Holy Angels, Minneapolis.

Mr. John J. Dugan, M.A., Ph.D., was Critic-Judge. Mr. Dugan is a graduate of Fordham University and Catholic University and is now teaching at University of Minnesota.

Holy Mass celebrated by Rev. Martin Larken opened the day's proceedings. A Prayer Greeting was offered by Rev. Benedict Piechel. A Welcome in behalf of the Faculty was extended by Sister Vergil, Principal and a definition of Our Purpose was given by Sister Charitas. Four plays were presented in the morning and three during the afternoon. A tea was given for principals, directors and house-guests at the close of the

(Cont'd on Page 9)

MARQUETTE PLAY FESTIVAL (Cont'd.)

Place", Sister M. Rose, O.P.; Holy Angels Academy, "Chimney Corner", Mary Pat Wilson; and Mercy High School - "So Wonderful! (In White)" directed by Nathalie Wesoloski.

Our sincere thanks to Sister Veronice on behalf of the Conference and Sister M. Angelita, Chairman of the Central Region, of which Milwaukee is a member.

YANKTON PLAY FESTIVAL (Cont'd.)

in the afternoon. In addition to critical analysis after each play Sister Charitas spoke at the close of the afternoon on The Catholic Theatre Conference. A meeting of directors and supervisors was held before dinner. The evening was devoted to dancing and an informal Social Hour for the students.

Attendance was very good - in one case (we wish we knew the name) Priest, Sisters and Players drove 300 miles and also brought along their seniors. An excellent spirit and interest prevailed. It was decided that Mount Marty would sponsor the festival again next year. Greetings and messages from the Board and Regional Chairmen were received and read to the audience.

Plays presented and their directors were: Mount Marty High - "Joint Owners in Spain", Sister M. Jeanette; St. Mary's High, Dell Rapids, S. Dak., "Cleophas", Sister M. Emmanuel; St. Mary's High, Salem, S. Dak., "How the Story Grew", Sister M. Desideria; St. Mary's Jr. High, Aberdeen, S. Dak. "Grandmother Nick", Sister M. Timothy; Immaculate Conception Mission, Stephan, S. Dak. - "The Blue Teapot", Eugene Goatley; Cathedral High, Sioux Falls, S. Dak. "Gray Bread", Sister M. Job; and St. Agatha's High, Howard, S. Dak., "No Greater Love", Sister M. Beatrix.

Sister Charitas said she thought Sister Jeanette deserved an orchid. We think they both do! Many thanks for their efforts to bring the Conference to South Dakota. Now they are aiming to do likewise for North Dakota. Our members in that state are urged to interest their fellow-schools in joining the Conference. Wouldn't you like a Play Festival too?

MINNEAPOLIS PLAY FESTIVAL (Cont'd.)

day. Luncheon was served at the mid-day break. Sister Charitas was assisted in all the plans by Miss Yvonne Yaeger, the students of Dramatic Art, all School officers and Thespians and members of the Home Economic Dept. Greetings were received from Board members and Regional chairmen.

Holy Angels Academy played hostess to fourteen house-guests. Approximately 125 Sisters, numerous directors and teachers and groups from schools were in attendance for a total of 850. Miss Frey, Miss Lenz and Mr. Doll were among directors present. Out of town Sisters included: Sister Jeanette and Sister Celeste from Yankton, South Dakota; Mother Catherine and Mother Jerome, Villa Marie, Frontenac, Minn.; Sister Annella and Sister Timothy of Duluth; Sister Michaela, Cold Spring, Minn.; Sister Laurent, St. Cloud, Minn.; Sister Doretta and companion, also from St. Cloud; Sister Madonna and Sister Theodotta, LaCrosse, Wisc.; Sister Janet and companion, Eau Claire, Wisc.; Sisters from Crookston, Minn. and several Notre Dame sisters from nearby places.

The program for the plays was especially nice - a gold cover with dark print and a four-inch figure of St. Genesius - very rich looking. Plays included: "Idols", Academy of Holy Angels directed by Sister Charitas; "Joint Owners in Spain", St. Anthony High, Minneapolis, Miss Mary Lux; "One Who Called", Mount St. Mary's School, St. Paul, Sister M. Gabriel; "Career Angel" scene, St. Thomas Military Academy, St. Paul, Lt. Robt. G. Cooke; "When the Whirlwind Blows", St. Margaret's Academy, Minneapolis, Sister M. Ruth; "The Dust of the Road", St. Agnes High, St. Paul, Sister M. Patrice and "Hyacinth on Wheels", St. Joseph's Academy, St. Paul, Miss Patricia Wolf.

The North-Central Region is just comparatively a new division. Sister Charitas has done an outstanding piece of work in new members gained and festivals held. We believe she found the Fountain of Youth somewhere - her zeal and activity certainly indicate it. Every college and university in Minnesota is a Conference member - every high school in the Festival is a member.

BROADWAY COMMENTS

by Mrs. Christopher Wyatt

BROWNING VERSION - Maurice Evans is magnificent in this rather bitter study of an unpopular and broken down British school master. Fortunately he has followed the consensus of the press and now plays it after a very heavy farce, also by Rattigan, called **HARLIQUINADE**.

DIAMOND LIL - Mae West, in her own drama of a Bowery Bar in the '90's, is unique in costumes and undulations. The very male audience acclaim her torch singing. Not particularly vulgar but without any moral.

I KNOW MY LOVE - The Lumt in S. N. Behrman's adaptation of the French comedy, **AUPRES DE MA BLONDE**. Now translated to Boston, the action covers scenes of married life from 1888-1938. The Lumts seem incompatible as the Chandlers in their late seventies until one sees them a boy and a girl of twenty. Delightful!

LES BALLETS DE PARIS - The bedroom scene interpolated into **CARMEN** has made one ballet notorious. Employing classic techniques in very modern variations, the results are sensational. The international company is excellent. The best ballet, **The Duel**, is created by an American.

LOST IN THE STARS - The acme of the American theatre is the fruit of the collaboration of Maxwell Anderson and Kurt Weill in this musical version of Paton's great South African story, **CRY, THE BELOVED COUNTRY**. Leslie Banks is Jarvis and Todd Duncan never played nor sang more beautifully as Mr. Kumalo, the Zulu minister. Prophecy that it will rival **SOUTH PACIFIC**.

MISS LIBERTY - Just because the Sherwood-Irving Berlin-Moss Hart combine didn't compose a miracle, their very pleasant well sung, well staged operetta of New York in the days of James Gordon Bennett and Pulitzer was 'panned' but it's now finding a gratified public.

MONTSERRAT - Lillian Hellman has wasted her talent on a French play in which a young Spanish officer, turned Liberal, is given the choice of betraying Bolivar or seeing six innocent passersby shot.

MONTSERRAT (cont'd.) They are shot one by one but the importance of Bolivar's leadership is left cloudy. Very painful.

REGINA - Marc Blitzstein had added nothing to **THE LITTLE FOXES** in his dissonant musical score nor have the singers in their stylized acting. Priscilla Gillette (from **BRIGADOON**) carries off the honors as the daughter of Jane Pickens (Regina).

SADLER WELLS BALLET - Each member of the company seems a potential star but Margot Fonteyn shines even more brightly. **THE SLEEPING BEAUTY** in three acts shows what classic ballet can be when danced to perfection - perfection is the keynote of their work.

SHAKE HANDS WITH THE DEVIL - The trial of the Communist leaders in New York is used for the flashbacks to other phases of Communism - such as Kasenkina, etc. - some of them really dull. The trial is the best scene but tends to make the Judge seem partial. A disappointment.

TOUCH AND GO - Catholic University contributes this revue by the Kerrs which is largely a satire of stage and screen with very gay music, modern dancing and plenty of laughs. No sex but some plumbing.

YES, M'LORD - A. E. Mathews, with over half a century's experience in light comedy, is at his best in an imported satire of the Labor Government. Mathews is an impoverished Earl whose butler becomes the Conservative candidate. Good entertainment.

A CLOSING NOTE OR TWO

We hope the new system of quick acknowledgement cards regarding library scripts requested being in and on way to you, out on loan but reservation placed, not in library, etc., has speeded up our replies to your requests. And that the quick thank-you letter devised for acknowledging dues payments has helped. We are looking forward to the day when we can answer every letter immediately and make our Service Bureau as efficient as it is our fervent wish for it to be.

We tried to clear our Calendar Notes File with this issue but there are still many interesting items for the Jan. issue.

